

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

**1 - 9. (Canceled)**

- 10. (Previously Presented)** A coextrusion binder comprising:
- 5 to 30 parts of a polymer (A) comprising a blend of a polyethylene (A1) of relative density between 0.910 and 0.940 and of a polymer (A2) selected from the group consisting of elastomers, very low-density polyethylenes having a relative density of 0.860 to 0.880 and metallocene polyethylenes, wherein both (A1) and (A2) are grafted with an unsaturated carboxylic acid;
  - 95 to 70 parts of an ungrafted polyethylene (B) of relative density between 0.910 and 0.930;
  - the blend of (A) and (B) having:
    - a relative density of between 0.910 and 0.930,
    - a content of grafted unsaturated carboxylic acid between 30 and 10,000 ppm, and
    - an MFI (ASTM D 1238; 190°C/2.16 kg) between 0.1 and 3 g/10 min., MFI standing for the melt flow index.

**11. (Previously Presented)** A binder according to Claim 10, having a relative density of between 0.915 and 0.920.

**12. (Previously Presented)** A binder according to Claim 10, in which the comonomer of (A1), before grafting, is the same as that of (B).

**13. (Previously Presented)** A binder according to Claim 10, wherein:

- (A1) comprises at least 75 mol% of ethylene in the polyethylene and has an  $MFI_2/[\eta]^{-8.77}$  ratio greater than 15 in absolute value;
- (A2) comprises at least 50 mol% of ethylene in the elastomer, very low-density polyethylene or metallocene polyethylene;
- (A2) has an  $MFI_2/[\eta]^{-8.77}$  ratio greater than 15 in absolute value;

- (A) has an ethylene content not less than 70 mol%;  
- the MFI<sub>10</sub>/MFI<sub>2</sub> ratio is between 5 and 20, where MFI<sub>2</sub> is the melt flow index at 190°C under a load of 2.16 kg, measured according to ASTM D 1238, and MFI<sub>10</sub> is the melt flow index at 190°C under a load of 10 kg according to ASTM D 1238, the intrinsic viscosity [η] denoting the viscosity index in dl/g of a polymer measured in a decalin solution at 135°C.

**14. (Previously Presented)** A multilayer structure comprising a layer comprising the binder of Claim 10 and, directly attached to the latter, a layer (E) which is a layer of a nitrogen-containing or oxygen-containing polar resin or a metal layer.

**15. (Currently Amended)** A structure according to Claim 14, in which either a polyolefin layer (F) or the layer (E) or a metal layer is directly attached on the binder side.

**16. (Previously Presented)** A structure according to Claim 15, respectively comprising an HDPE layer, a first layer of said binder, a layer of EVOH or of an EVOH alloy, a second layer of said binder and an HDPE layer.

**17. (Previously Presented)** A rigid hollow body made of a structure according to Claim 14.

**18. (Previously Presented)** A gasoline tank comprising a structure according to Claim 16.

**19. (Currently Amended)** A multilayer structure of Claim 14, wherein layer (E) is a layer of a nitrogen-containing or oxygen-containing polar resin which is a polyamide, an aliphatic polyketone, a saponified ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer or a polyester resin or a metal layer.

**20. (Canceled)**

**21. (Previously Presented)** A binder according to claim 10, wherein (A2) is a very low density polyethylene having a relative density selected in a manner whereby the blend of (A) and (B) has a relative density of 0.910 to 0.930.

**22. (Previously Presented)** A binder according to claim 10, wherein (A2) is a very low density polyethylene having a relative density selected in a manner whereby the blend of (A) and (B) has a relative density of 0.915 to 0.920.

**23. (Previously Presented)** A coextrusion binder comprising:

- 5 to 30 parts of a polymer (A) comprising a blend of a polyethylene (A1) of relative density between 0.910 and 0.940 and of a polymer (A2) selected from the group consisting of elastomers, very low-density polyethylenes having a relative density of 0.860 to 0.880 and metallocene polyethylenes, wherein both (A1) and (A2) are grafted with an unsaturated carboxylic acid or with a functional derivative of an unsaturated carboxylic acid;
- 95 to 70 parts of an ungrafted polyethylene (B) of relative density between 0.910 and 0.930;
- the blend of (A) and (B) having:
  - a relative density of between 0.910 and 0.930,
  - a content of grafted unsaturated carboxylic acid between 30 and 10,000 ppm, and
  - an MFI (ASTM D 1238; 190°C/2.16 kg) between 0.1 and 3 g/10 min., MFI standing for the melt flow index.

**24. (Previously Presented)** A binder according to claim 23, wherein the functional derivative of an unsaturated carboxylic acid is an anhydride, ester, amide, imide or a metal salt of an unsaturated carboxylic acid.

**25. (Previously Presented)** A binder according to claim 23, wherein the functional derivative of an unsaturated carboxylic acid is an anhydride of a dicarboxylic acid.

**26. (Previously Presented)** A binder according to claim 23, wherein the functional derivative of an unsaturated carboxylic acid is a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl ester or a glycidyl ester of an unsaturated carboxylic acid.

**27. (Previously Presented)** A binder according to claim 23, wherein the functional derivative of an unsaturated carboxylic acid is maleic anhydride.

**28. (Previously Presented)** A binder according to claim 23, wherein:

- (A1) comprises at least 75 mol% of ethylene in the polyethylene and has an MFI<sub>2</sub>/[ $\eta$ ]<sup>-8.77</sup> ratio greater than 15 in absolute value;
- (A2) comprises at least 50 mol% of ethylene in the elastomer, very low-density polyethylene or metallocene polyethylene;
- (A2) has an MFI<sub>2</sub>/[ $\eta$ ]<sup>-8.77</sup> ratio greater than 15 in absolute value;
- (A) has an ethylene content not less than 70 mol%;
- the MFI<sub>10</sub>/MFI<sub>2</sub> ratio is between 5 and 20, where MFI<sub>2</sub> is the melt flow index at 190°C under a load of 2.16 kg, measured according to ASTM D 1238, and MFI<sub>10</sub> is the melt flow index at 190°C under a load of 10 kg according to ASTM D 1238, the intrinsic viscosity [ $\eta$ ] denoting the viscosity index in dl/g of a polymer measured in a decalin solution at 135°C.

**29. (Previously Presented)** A multilayer structure comprising a layer comprising the binder of Claim 23 and, directly attached to the latter, a layer (E) which is a layer of a nitrogen-containing or oxygen-containing polar resin or a metal layer.

**30. (Previously Presented)** A rigid hollow body made of a structure according to Claim 29.

**31. (New)** A binder according to Claim 10, wherein (B) is a linear low-density polyethylene.

**32. (New)** A binder according to Claim 10, wherein  
(A1) has an MFI (ASTM D 1238; 190°C/2.16 kg) between 0.1 and 8 g/10 min.,  
(A2) has an MFI (ASTM D 1238; 190°C/2.16 kg) between 0.1 and 20 g/10 min., and

(B) has an MFI (ASTM D 1238; 190°C/2.16 kg) between 0.1 and 3 g/10 min., MFI standing for the melt flow index.

**33.** (New) A binder according to Claim 10, wherein (A2) is selected from the group consisting of elastomers and metallocene polyethylenes.

**34.** (New) A binder according to Claim 23, wherein (B) is a linear low-density polyethylene.

**35.** (New) A binder according to Claim 23, wherein  
(A1) has an MFI (ASTM D 1238; 190°C/2.16 kg) between 0.1 and 8 g/10 min.,  
(A2) has an MFI (ASTM D 1238; 190°C/2.16 kg) between 0.1 and 20 g/10 min., and  
(B) has an MFI (ASTM D 1238; 190°C/2.16 kg) between 0.1 and 3 g/10 min., MFI standing for the melt flow index.

**36.** (New) A binder according to Claim 23, wherein (A2) is selected from the group consisting of elastomers and metallocene polyethylenes.